

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether the sugar-cane is utilised for the manufacture of sugar in the State at present?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Not at present. The refinery at Thuckalai is suitable only for refining Palmyra jaggery.

Prohibition of alcoholic drinks.

454 *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by the Government during the year 1120 to ensure the policy of prohibition regarding use of alcoholic drinks and if so what they are?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: (i) No step was taken for ensuring immediate prohibition.

(ii) As usual indirect control measures were taken including:

(a) Enhancement of duty on liquor.

(b) Enhancement of license fee.

(c) Enhancement of shop rentals.

(d) Fixation of quota for arrack supply.

(f) Prohibition of the sale of liquor to persons below eighteen years of age.

Alwaye Town Toddy Shop No. 20.

455 *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have received petitions from the public of Alwaye asking for the removal of Alwaye Town Toddy Shop No. 20 from its present site which is in close proximity to several boys' and girls' schools and places of public worship;

(b) when these petitions were received;

(c) what action they have taken in the matter; and

(d) whether the grievance has been brought to the notice of the Dewan during his recent Alwaye visit?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: (a) and (b) Copy of a petition dated 7th July 1944 addressed to the Excise Commissioner was received by Government on the 4th August 1944.

(c) Enquiry has been held and it has been ordered that arrangements should be made for the removal of the shop from the present site as early as practicable;

(d) Yes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member when the order for removing the shop was given?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: It was in February last.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether that order has been put into operation?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: No, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know the reasons for not putting it into operation, though the Government have passed an order to that effect?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The local Inspector has been ordered to see that the shop was shifted as early as possible. There was some difficulty in getting buildings. There were also some petitions from other contractors. The Inspector is being asked to carry out the order as early as possible.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : It is about seven months since the order has been issued. Does the honourable member think that it was pardonable on the part of the local Inspector to take such a long time to put that order into effect especially when the order was passed at the request of the local public and the public has gone to the Dewan and reported the matter to him?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : It is obvious that there is some delay. Letters are sent every fortnight ; the matter will not be delayed further.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : May I know whether the shop will be removed before this year is out?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : I cannot say it would be removed before this year is out because we have got only a few days more. But I can assure the House that no avoidable delay will be permitted.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : That is not very enlightening. It is about 8 months since the order was issued, but the honourable member says that there are only a few days left for the close of this year. Government have already issued an order. May I know whether the honourable member would see that the order is immediately put into effect so that the demands of the public will be met?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Yes, Sir. As early as possible.

Excise Department.

456. * MR. BRAHMAPURAM P. YESUDIAN (Nominated) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clerks of the Excise Department get their appointment from the Public Service Commissioner ;

(b) whether there are undergraduates in clerical posts in the above department ;

(c) whether graduates are appointed as clerks ;

(d) the authority who appoints Preventive Officers and the qualifications and pay for which they are entitled ;

(e) the scale for second grade Preventive Officers and that for third grade Preventive Officers ;

(f) the grade in which recruitment of graduates in the near future would be effected ; and

(g) the grade and pay for previous recruitment of graduates as Preventive Officers ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : (a) Yes. Initial appointments are advised by the Public Service Commissioner.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Initial appointments of Preventive officers (II Grade) are advised by the Public Service Commissioner. Promotions are given by the Excise Commissioner.

Grade.	Pay.	Qualifications.
III Grade Preventive officer	Rs. 22	Departmental test.
II Grade Do.	25	Graduation for recruitments (E. S. L. C. and departmental test for promotion.)